



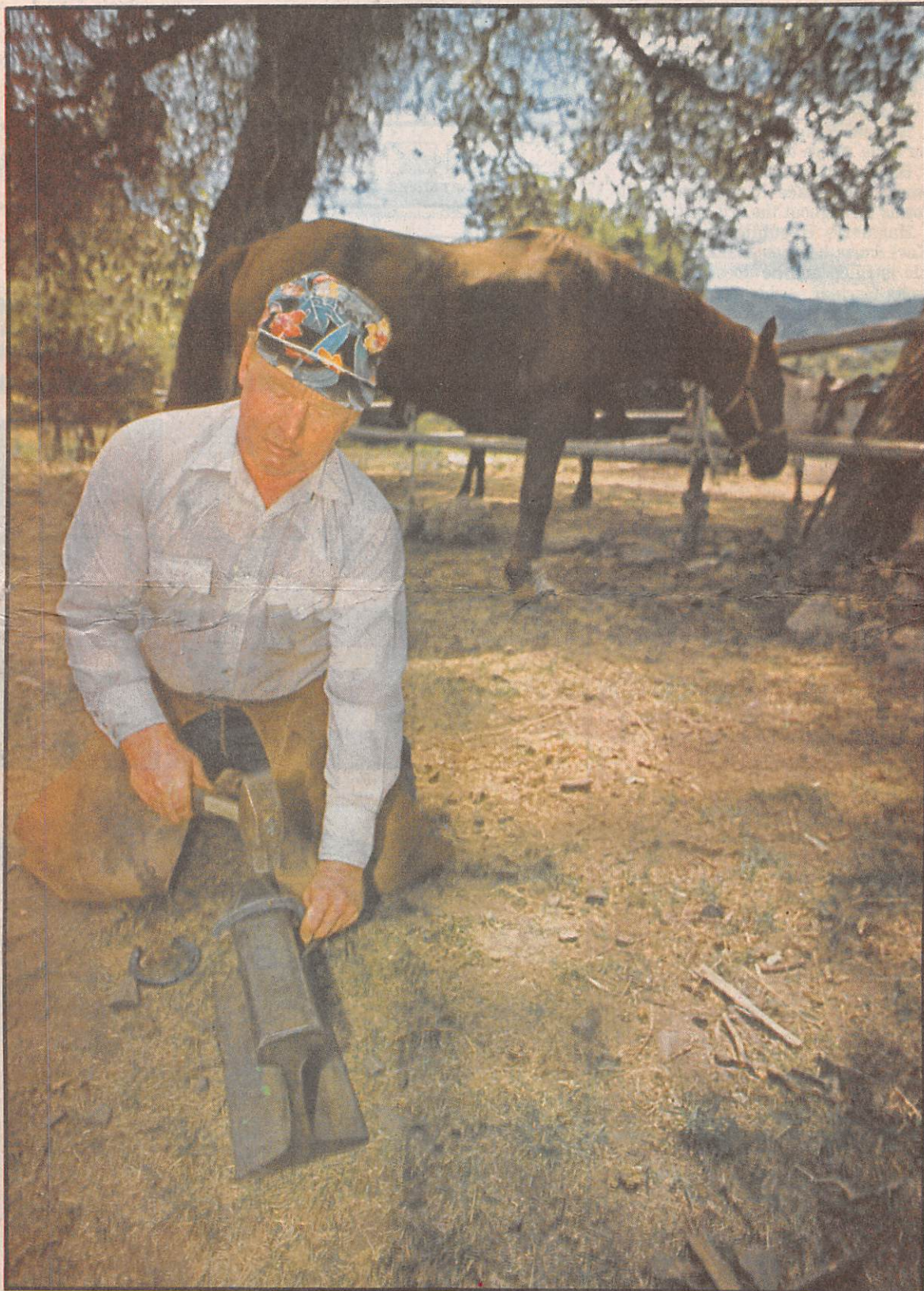
Herald Photo/Tamara Sneedon

Getting ready

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24 July 1998



Herald Photo/Tamara Sneddon

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27 July 1990



Rex Infanger photo

Scott Wilson, Big Springs wrangler, prepares for a late afternoon ride up South Fork.

Big Springs Ranch offers drop-off hunts in South Fork

7-26-90

By REX C. INFANGER
Herald Correspondent

Several years ago, I archery hunted up the South Fork of Provo Canyon.

The bottom lands are criss-crossed with deer trails. I was able to use a tree stand to hunt from, but was never able to get a good shot at a deer, despite dozens that were close but never within range of my bow.

I decided that year that I would hunt the National Forest land on the upper south ridge. I got up at 3:00 a.m., drove up to South Fork, parked the car and began to hike. Bushes and trees that had been so easy to avoid in the light while bow hunting became major obstacles, and crossing the creek seemed like fording the main Provo River.

After working my way up the steep slope and about two hours later, I was about 3/8 of a mile up the side of the mountain just below the ridge.

I sat and watched as deer moved back and forth on the north ridge, well out of range for my weapon.

I wished that I had access to a spot in South Fork with all its deer

These horses were acquired from an older gentleman who has had a riding stable in Reno, Nevada for years.

The horses are well-broken and easy to ride. The Stephens' often have families with young children come up and ride these horses without any problems.

Big Springs Ranch can be reached by driving up South Fork or by calling 225-6589.

The horses can be used not only to take you up where you want to go, but they will also pack in your tents, stoves and whatever other equipment you need to set up your base camp back into the Big Spring Valley where no vehicle access is allowed.

They take you in and arrange to pick you up on the day that you

want to come out. You can ride their horses to camp, hike while hunting and then ride their horses back out.

There is a second option if you don't want camp hauled in for you — you can have your deer hauled out. Hike up, shoot your deer, get it hung and dressed, then hike back down to the Big Springs Ranch and arrange to have them pick your deer up and bring it out on the horses.

It will keep your deer cleaner and it's a lot less wear and tear on the body.

The Big Springs Ranch is a beautiful area and there is a lot of game near it. The Stephens' have seen goat, deer, moose, elk and cougar while out on their normal rides.



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Varied views aired concerning rezoning area in South Fork

By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN
Herald Staff Writer

Varied viewpoints were aired Monday night at a public hearing scheduled by the Utah County Commission on rezoning 75 acres of land in the South Fork of Provo Canyon to allow a commercial development. Commissioners took the matter under advisement and promised a decision by Aug. 12. By a four-to-one vote, the County Planning Commission had approved a request by the Conrad Family Trust to rezone their land in the South Fork from Critical Environment-1 and Agricultural-1 to Critical Environment-2, and to change the master plan to make the land a recreational resort area. Darrell Conrad told the County Commission that the family has remodeled a home in the area and wants to open a reception center for weddings and other events. Laura Monsen, a resident of the area, claimed the Conrads had enlarged the home specifically as a reception center and had operated the center illegally in the wrong zone and without a business license. "They always intended it to be a reception center," she declared, stating that she had talked to the builder while it was under construction and he said it

was to be a reception center. They operated it in defiance of the law, she said. She said the road is too narrow to handle the traffic, there is no sewer system in the canyon, the road passes through two parks and two subdivisions, and there is no waste disposal system. The nearest fire department is 30 minutes away and the county fire marshal has said South Fork is a "natural chimney" when it comes to fire hazard, she said. She also noted the need for watershed protection and wildlife protection. For these reasons, she said, the zone change should be denied. Mike Conrad said he didn't appreciate the statements against his father, and claimed the family hadn't planned to make the home a reception center at first. Zoning Administrator Jeff Mendenhall said Conrads had been granted a permit for a single family dwelling. He conceded that he notified Conrads of the violation and had sent the violation to the County Attorney's Office. "The end result is here tonight with this hearing," he said. Conrad claimed the intent from the start was to remodel the home and add onto it so it could be used for family gatherings. He said his daughter's wedding

reception was conducted there, and after that reception three other parties wanted to have receptions there. He admitted they had scheduled the three receptions in addition to that of his daughter. Mendenhall told commissioners, "If you disapprove this zone change, it's back to a single family dwelling." Rod Despain, spokesman for the Conrads, said his clients wish to rezone only 75 acres of the 800 they own in the canyon, and the land they want rezoned is adjacent to CE-2 land already rezoned in the Gammie plot. He pointed out that the character of the canyon is changing with lots of activity occurring there at the Girl Scout camp, subdivisions and parks. Scott Erckenbrack, who father owns a ranch in the canyon spoke of the number of accidents along the narrow road and said he would hate to see the canyon become "another Sandance," said the county-owned road in the canyon was 16 to 20 feet wide and had 75 turns in 3.5 miles. He said there had been six accidents in several years, some related to alcohol. It would cost \$50,000 a mile to widen and improve the road, he said.

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Scott Ercanbrack, whose father owns a ranch in the canyon, spoke of the number of accidents along the narrow road and said he would hate to see the canyon become "another Sundance."

County Engineer Clyde Naylor said the county-owned road in the canyon was 16 to 20 feet wide and had 75 turns in 3.5 miles. He said there had been six accidents in several years, some related to alcohol. It would cost \$50,000 a mile to widen and improve the road, he said.

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9-26-90

By RENN FANGER
Herald-Examiner

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crossed with trees. I was able
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but was never able to get a good
shot at a deer. It was within range

of my bow, but I decided that I would
not try to shoot it.

When I got up at 3:00 a.m. to go to South Fork,

the camp was in a hilly area. The

hills had been so easily avoided while bow

hunting, but seemed like
a challenge for the hunter.

Working up the
steep slope a few hours

later, I was at a mile up
the side of the ridge.

But and we deer moved
back and forth north ridge,

I wished that I had access to a
spot in the canyon.

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They take you in and arrange to
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like up, shoot your deer, get
it and dressed, then hike back
at the Big Springs Ranch and
deer. I have them pick your
horse and bring it out on the
and it's
the body. Your deer cleaner
The Big wear and tear on
beautiful are.

The Big game near it. Ranch is a
seen goat, deer is a lot of
cougar while others have
elk and
normal



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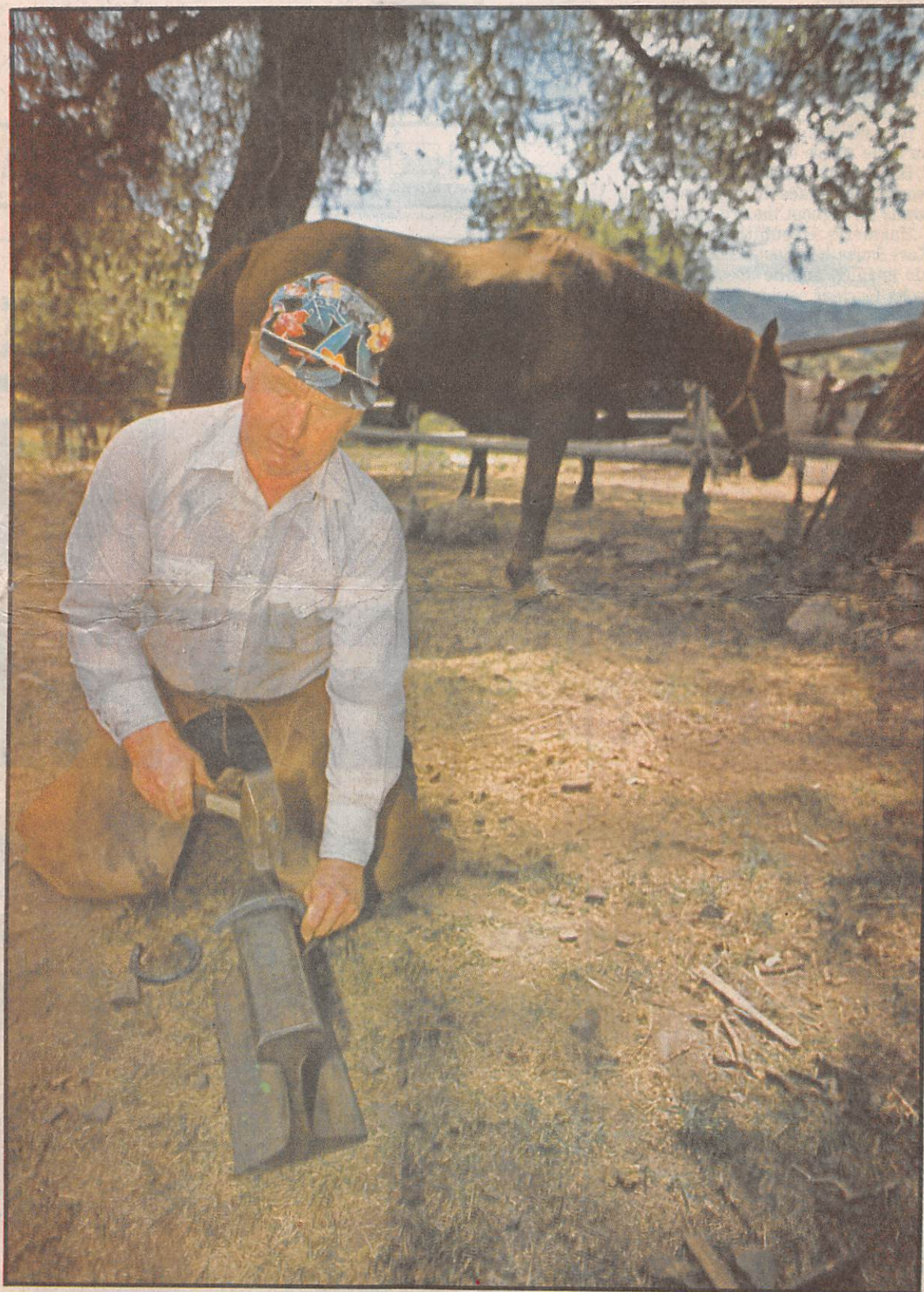
Herald Photo/Tamara Sneddon

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Rex Infanger photo

Horseback riding provides new view of outdoor beauty

By JANET HART
Herald Staff Writer

PROVO — For people who want a new look at Utah County's mountains, horseback riding may be the answer.

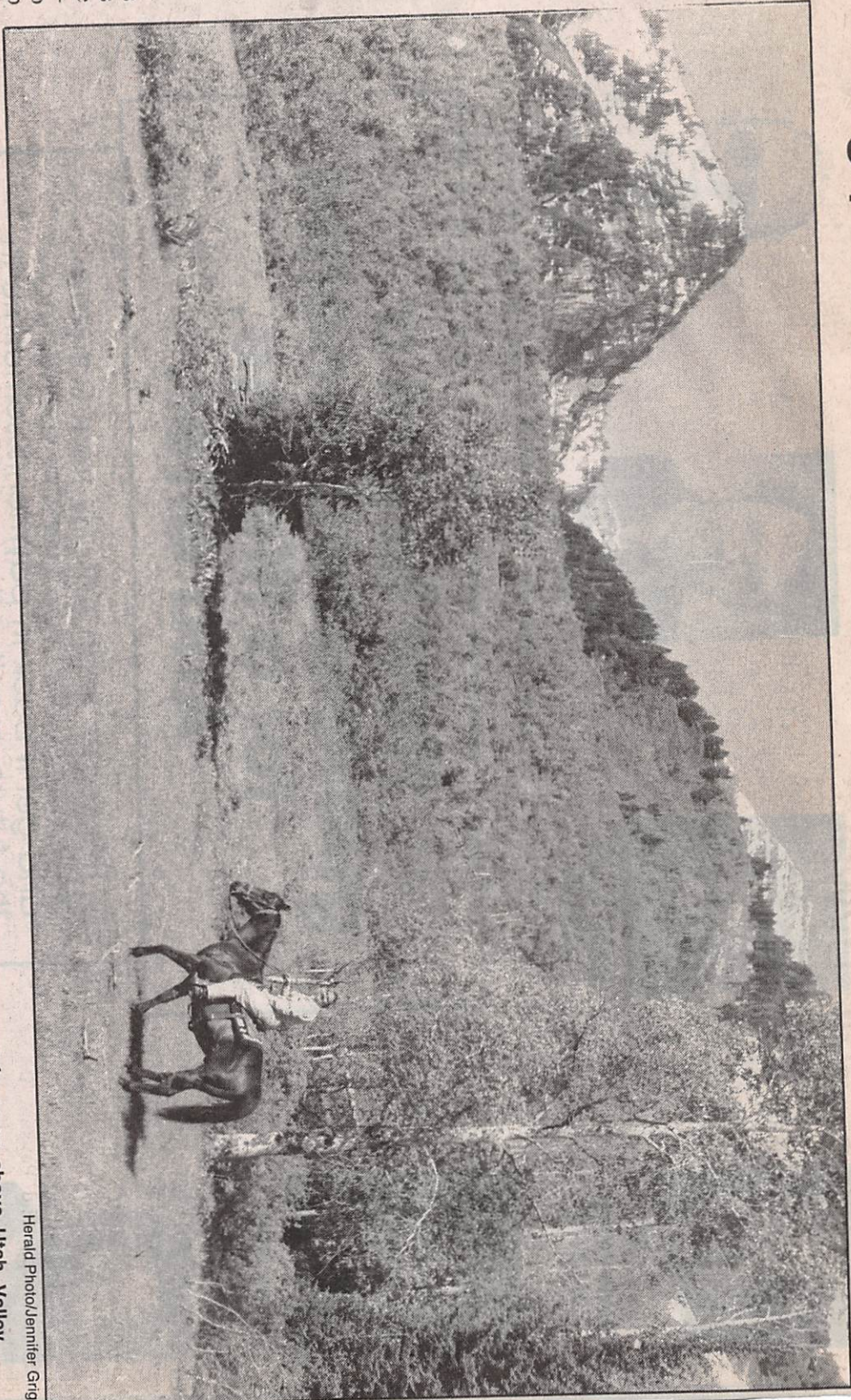
Hiking and mountain biking are popular outdoor avenues, but each requires a large amount of concentration on the actual trail, said Harry Stephens, who with his wife Joanne owns Big Springs Riding Stables up South Fork in Provo Canyon.

"A lot of avid hikers come up here and say they're so into hiking they don't see things. On a horse, you have time to look around," Stephens said. "Plus you're a little higher up in the mountains and on a horse, so you get a better view."

Another benefit to horseback riding, Stephens said, is deer and other animals tend to stick around longer because they aren't as afraid of horses as they are of people.

Big Springs Stables, located approximately three and a half miles up South Fork, is one of two places up Provo Canyon to rent and ride horses. The other is Sundance Stables, located approximately two miles further up the Alpine Loop from the main resort.

The Stephens have been running their rental operation for almost four years. They decided to go into the horse business after previous jobs no longer met their family and



Herald Photo/Jennifer Grigg

Local organizations offer recreational horseback riding opportunities to the public in the mountain areas above Utah Valley.

"A lot of avid hikers

RIDING:

(Continued from Page 10)

caters primarily to smaller groups. Individual riders try to focus on providing a tour of a particular area, Reiser said.

The one-hour ride (\$20 per person) takes visitors to Elk Meadows — an area that tends to fill up with wildlife because the trees and grass grow especially thick, Reiser said.

On a two-hour ride (\$40 per person), visitors go through Elk Meadows and continue to Stewart Falls. Longer rides up into the nearby wilderness area are available as the winter snows continue to melt.

Guests can also choose a ride with a picnic that is part of an entire Sundance Resort vacation package.

"We want to be a facility that allows beginners to ride and interact with the horses well. The idea is to help each guest have a very personal experience," Reiser added.

Before the actual ride begins, each visitor is taken into a training corral and given basic horse riding instructions, said Anne Rumsey, who works as a guide for the stables.

Rumsey shows riders how to make the horse stop, start and turn and watches closely as each one tests out the proper commands.

On each of the trails, riders are limited to walking their horses instead of trotting or running. Both Rumsey and Reiser have emergency medical training in case something does go wrong out on the trails.

"Someday something is going

to happen, but we do all we can to minimize that," Rumsey added.

The riding season at Sundance and runs through October.

Herald Photo/Jennifer Grigg

Anne Rumsey leads Hilary Holgate and Dan Aldred on a horseback ride in the mountains near Sundance Resort.



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